AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously presented) A method for setting up and/or clearing a communications link via communication devices of at least a first and a second type, comprising:

signaling the at least first and second type of communication devices to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link; and

setting up and/or clearing the connection for the first type via at least one decentralized switching device, wherein

the signaling takes place from a central device.

2. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection is set up and/or cleared via a central device for the second type.

3. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the connection is set up via a transport network for the first type.

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which the central device controls a decentralized switching device.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which communications data for the communications link is converted in the region of a decentralized switching device for communication devices of different types.

6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

setting up and/or clearing the communications link from a communications terminal which is ~~configure~~ configured for connection via time slots in a time slot multiplexing connection, the connection being set up via a transport network by producing, in the central device, at least one time slot control information item, which is used for setting up connections in the transport network, and one time slot is reserved for transferring communication data between communication devices of different types.

7. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, in which the time slot control information is linked to a transport-network-specific information item and is transmitted to a decentralized device.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, in which an asynchronous transmission method is used for transmission via the communications link.

9. (Currently Amended) A system for setting up and/or clearing a communications link via communication devices of at least a first and a second type, comprising:

a transport network to provide the communications link between communication devices of a first type;

a control network to control the setting up and/or clearing of the communications link;

a switching matrix to provide the communications link between communication devices of the second type; and

~~a device to control~~ means for controlling the setting up and/or clearing of connections in the transport network through the control network, the ~~device~~ means being operatively connected to the switching matrix, and connection control information for the switching matrix being supplied to them as part of a control information item.

10. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, in which the transport network has a different topology than the control network.

11. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, in which the transport network has at least one decentralized device for connection of a communications terminal, and has a switching device in the region of the decentralized device which provides the communications link in the transport network.

12. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, in which the communications device of the second type has at least one peripheral device with at least one device for connection of a communications terminal, and has a switching device to provide the communications link in the transport network.

13. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, which has a conversion apparatus for conversion of communication data, which conversion apparatus converts communication data in at least one data flow direction as a function of the type of communication device, with at least data types for a communication device of the first type and for a communication device of the second type.

14. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 13, in which the conversion apparatus is configured in the data flow in the immediate vicinity of a decentralized switching device.

15. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 9, which has ~~a central device to provide~~ central means for providing at least one connection-related service feature, the ~~device~~ means being operatively connected to the central device.

16. (Previously presented) The system as claimed in claim 9, which is in the form of a private branch exchange and has at least one decentralized device for connection of communications terminals.

17. (Currently Amended) The system as claimed in claim 9, which has a control device to provide the communications link in the region of the decentralized device, if [[the]] a central control device is not available.